

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action dated August 10, 2005. In a telephonic office communication on December 7, 2005, Examiner Nguyen, based on a conversation with his supervisor, agreed to withdraw the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-5, 8-16, 31, 32, 35, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Grant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,218,602). Claims 17, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of Lam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,027). Claims 18, 19, 22, 27, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view Kumar (U.S. No. Patent 6,122,274). Claims 7, 28, and 29 are allowed. Claims 6, 20, 21 25, and 26 are allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8-16, 31, 32, 35, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Grant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,218,602).

Claim 1 is amended to include limitations of allowed claim 6 to put the case in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 is amended to include limitations of claim 19 and limitations of allowable claim 20 to put the case in condition for allowance.

Claims 31, 32, 35, and 36-37 are canceled to put the case in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of Lam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,027). Applicants believe that claim 17 depends from an allowable claim and is allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

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Claims 33 and 34 are canceled to put the case in condition for allowance.

Claims 18, 19, 22, 27, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view Kumar (U.S. No. Patent 6,122,274). Claim 18 is amended to include limitations of claim 19 and limitations of allowable claim 20 to put the case in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that claims 22, 27, and 30 depend from an allowable claim and are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 18, 22, 27, and 30 be withdrawn.

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant and Kumar as applied to claims 18, 19 and 22 above, and further in view of Lam (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,027). Applicants believe that claims 23 and 24 depend from allowable claims and are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 23 and 24 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 28, and 29.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 20, 21, 25, and 26.

Claim 6 is incorporated into independent claim 1 to put the case in condition for allowance. Claim 6 is canceled.

Claims 19 and 20 are incorporated into independent claim 18 to put the case in condition for allowance. Claims 19 and 20 are canceled.

Applicants believe that claims 21, 25, and 26 depend from allowable claims and are allowable for at least this reason.

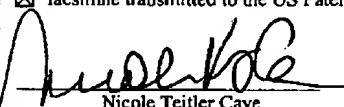
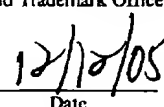
Additional Remarks

Claims 21, 22, 25, 26, and 27 are amended to depend from claim 18.


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Summary

All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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